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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
OF PHILADELPHIA.

VOL. I.	JANUARY, 1842.	No. 10.
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STATED MEETING, JANUARY 4, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO CABINET.

A collection of Bird Skins, from the vicinity of New Harmony, Indiana.—Prepared and presented by Mr. Charles Twigg, of that place.

Flower of the *Zamia integrifolia* of Florida.—From Dr. J. Carson.

Numerous specimens of *Anculosa dissimilis*, and *Melania virginica*, from the Susquehanna river.—From the Rev. James M'Farland.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—Letters were read from Dr. Dunglison, secretary of the American Philosophical Society; and from Dr. E. S. Dixwell, secretary of the Boston Society of Natural History, acknowledging the receipt of the Academy's Proceedings.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Dr. G. C. Leib remarked, that in looking over Dr. Giraud's work entitled "Sixteen New Species of Birds," he found the *Parus leucotis* of Giraud, to be identical with the *Setofaga rubra* of Swainson.

Professor Johnson made some observations on the spontaneous combustion of Bituminous Coal.

He stated that he had recently been invited to inspect a heap of bituminous coal on the premises of Mr. John W. Middleton of this city, which had for a few days previous been observed to be growing warm and giving off vapour very copiously ; from which it was inferred to be approaching spontaneous combustion. The coal in question was stated to be from the Allegheny mountain, above Hollidaysburg, and to be a mixture of two or three different mines. On causing a hole to be excavated about three feet deep, the temperature was found to be 110 Farenheit ; and the day being cold, (below freezing point) the volume of steam which arose on moving the coal was so great as almost completely to envelope and hide the workmen. All parts of the heap were observed to exhibit distinct traces of the effloresced sulphate of iron ; or if some pieces of the coal had no visible marks of this kind, they still exhibited to the sense of taste the strongest evidence of being covered with that salt.

This coal evidently possessed all the requisites for producing spontaneous combustion, and only required time, and perhaps a rather larger heap, to bring that process to the same termination as was observed a few weeks since in the city of Lowell.

The chairman having announced the demise of our venerable associate John Vaughan, Esq., on motion of Professor Johnson, it was unanimously

Resolved,—That this Society have heard with deep regret, the announcement of the decease of their late valued member, John Vaughan, Esq.,—so long known in our community for his various merits, both in relation to scientific objects and to benevolent purposes and institutions ; and they would by this act testify their

high estimation of those excellent traits of character by which their deceased fellow member was so eminently distinguished.

Resolved,—That the Corresponding Secretary communicate to the family of the deceased, a copy of the foregoing resolution.

STATED MEETING, JANUARY 11, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Forty species of Fossil Shells of the newer Pliocene beds at Undevalla in Sweden. From Dr. Morton.

Ammonites obtusus, *A. Parkinsonii* and *A. communis*, from the Lias of Lyme Regis, England. Presented by Dr. Morton.

Perca (*Percina*) *minima*, and *P. nebula*, (Haldeman) from the Susquehanna river. From Mr. S. S. Haldeman.

Two specimens of the *Fuligula minor* (Giraud), or Scaup Duck. Presented by Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—A communication was read from Mr. Haldeman, describing two new species of the genus *Perca*, from the Susquehanna river, viz., *P. nebulosa*, and *P. minima*; which was referred to a committee.

A letter was read from Mr. J. G. Bell, of New York, dated January 8th, in which he offers some remarks on the two specimens of *Fuligula minor*, or lesser Scaup Duck, presented by him this evening. He states, that they have hitherto been mistaken for the common Scaup Duck, *Anas marila* of Wilson; and although Mr. Audubon figures this bird, and Wilson the larger one, these naturalists had supposed them to be spe-